

House Bill 486

By: Representatives Washburn of the 141st, Powell of the 32nd, Williams of the 145th, Mathis of the 144th, Hill of the 3rd, and others

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Chapter 14 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 electrical contractors, plumbers, conditioned air contractors, low-voltage contractors, and
3 utility contractors, so as to change the power and duties of the Division of Electrical
4 Contractors as to the approval of continuing education courses; to prohibit certain
5 advertisements related to electrical contracting; to provide for related matters; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 14 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to electrical
10 contractors, plumbers, conditioned air contractors, low-voltage contractors, and utility
11 contractors, is amended by revising subsection (e) of Code Section 43-14-6, relating to
12 powers and duties of divisions, as follows:

13 "(e)(1) The Division of Electrical Contractors shall be authorized to require persons
14 seeking renewal of Electrical Contractor Class I and Class II licenses to complete board
15 approved continuing education courses of not more than four hours annually. The
16 division shall be authorized to approve ~~courses offered by institutions of higher learning,~~
~~vocational-technical schools, and trade, technical, or professional organizations;~~
18 ~~provided, however, that continuing education courses or programs related to electrical~~
19 ~~contracting provided or conducted by public utilities, equipment manufacturers, or~~
20 ~~institutions under the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia shall~~
21 ~~constitute acceptable continuing professional education programs for the purposes of this~~
22 ~~subsection. Continuing education courses or programs conducted by manufacturers~~
23 ~~specifically to promote their products shall not be approved continuing education courses~~
24 ~~to be held within or outside this state that are available to all licensed electrical~~
25 ~~contractors on a reasonable nondiscriminatory fee basis. Any request for division~~
26 ~~approval of a continuing education course shall be submitted in a timely manner with due~~

regard for the necessity of investigation and consideration by the division. The division may contract with institutions of higher learning, professional organizations, or other qualified persons to provide programs that meet the requirements of this paragraph and any rules or regulations established by the division. Such programs shall be self-sustaining by the individual fees set and collected by the provider of the program.

(2) The division shall be authorized to waive the continuing education requirements in cases of hardship, disability, or illness or under such other circumstances as the division deems appropriate."

SECTION 2.

Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 43-14-8, relating to licensing required for electrical, plumbing, or conditioned air contracting, businesses conducted by partnerships, limited liability companies, and corporations, applications, and review courses, as follows:

"43-14-8.

(a)(1) No person shall engage in the electrical contracting business as an electrical contractor unless such person has a valid license from the Division of Electrical Contractors and a certificate of competency, if such certificates are issued by the division pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 43-14-6.

(2) A person who is not licensed as an electrical contractor or who does not have a certificate of competency, if such certificates are issued by the division pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 43-14-6, or both as may be applicable, shall be prohibited from advertising in any manner that such person is in the business or profession of electrical contracting unless the work is performed by a licensed electrical contractor."

SECTION 3.

51 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.